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The Reichstag Fire

The Reichstag fire was a pivotal event in German history. On the night of February 27, 1933, the Reichstag building, which housed the German parliament in Berlin, was set ablaze. The fire was reported around 9:00 PM, and despite the efforts of firefighters, the building suffered extensive damage.

The Nazis quickly blamed the fire on a group of Communist agitators, using it as a pretext to claim that Communists were plotting against the German government. This led to the issuance of the

Reichstag Fire Decree, which suspended civil liberties and allowed for the mass arrest of Communists. This event significantly helped Adolf Hitler consolidate power and establish the Nazi dictatorship.

The true cause of the fire remains a topic of debate. While a Dutch council communist named Marinus van der Lubbe was arrested and later executed for the crime, some historians believe the fire was part of a Nazi plot to seize power.